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HARRISON ANTINARCOTIC LAW.

UNITED STATES COURT DECIDES THAT THE ISSUING OR FILLING OF A PRESCRIPTION FOR AN UNNECESSARILY LARGE AMOUNT OF HABIT-FORMING DRUGS IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW.

The United States District Court for the Northern District of New York has decided that it was the purpose of Congress in passing the Harrison antinarcotic law to limit the quantity of habit-forming drugs that may be prescribed by a physician or sold on a physician's prescription to such an amount as is necessary to meet the needs of the patient for whom the prescription is given. The court holds that a prescription for an unusually large quantity of any of the drugs enumerated in the law must show the reason why the large quantity is required, and, if it does not, both the physician who writes the prescription and the druggist who fills it are guilty of violating the law. (See p. 1203 of this issue of the Public Health Reports.)

Judge Ray, in the opinion, said that he was unable to agree with the decision in *United States v. Friedman* (P. H. R., Dec. 24, 1915, p. 3777), which held that the law did not limit the amount of habit-forming drugs which may be prescribed by a physician.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WILL BE ENFORCED IN BOSTON.

The Boston city health department in its monthly bulletin for March, 1916, has notified physicians that it intends to enforce the State law in regard to the notification of diseases dangerous to the public health. The announcement reads in part:

Warning.

Physicians are hereby notified that it is the purpose of this department to see that the * * * law for reporting all diseases that have been declared dangerous to the public health shall be complied with.

The people of this city depend upon the health department to warn them and their families of a sickness that is liable to be a source of infection to them. It is impossible for the health department to furnish such protection without having definite knowledge of the cases and their location. * * *